

Aylwin House
48 Elm Street
Woodstock
Windsor County
Vermont

HABS No. VT-32

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VT
14-WOOD
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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

HABES
VT
14-00000
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

AYLWIN HOUSE

Street Address: 48 Elm Street, Woodstock, Windsor County, Vermont

Present Owner: Mr. and Mrs. Byron Thomas, 48 Elm Street,
Woodstock, Vermont

Present Occupant: Same

Present Use: Residence

Brief Statement of Significance: House is noteworthy for its columned portico.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners: The original owners are identified only as "the Misses Aylwin." The house was owned by George R. Chapman in 1889. Present owner acquired the house in 1950.
2. Date of erection: 1829
3. Architect: No information
Builder, suppliers, etc.: The house is reported (by Henry Swan Dana, A History of Woodstock, Vermont) as having been built for the Misses Aylwin by and under the superintendence of Henry B. Dana, a Woodstock merchant.
4. Original plans, construction, etc.: Unknown
5. Notes on alterations and additions: The entrance portico and a few interior details are the only unaltered portions of the house. The earliest alterations still apparent are on the exterior of the brick ell, which shows in the brickwork two additions. The wooden ell to the rear is modern. The entire interior has been completely redecorated and considerably altered by the present owner since 1950. A few of the original interior details survive, but they have been incorporated into a completely new and lavish interior in which very high standards of design and craftsmanship are apparent in both the custom-made furniture and the new cabinet work, as well as the other furnishings. The redesign and redecoration of the interior has been supervised by Byron Thomas and Molly Gregory, Interior Designer, Lexington, Mass. The columned portico retains its original appearance. The northernmost column has had a short section replaced at the base since 1950, but matches the other columns.

6. References: Henry Swan Dana, A History of Woodstock, Vermont, Houghton, Mifflin and Company, Boston and New York, 1889, p.180. Mr. Byron Thomas, 48 Elm Street, Woodstock, Vermont. Mrs. J. Peter Gratiot, Otis Hill Farm, Woodstock, Vermont.

B. Historical Events Connected with the Structure: No information.

C. Likely Sources Not Yet Investigated: Woodstock Town Records.

Prepared by Osmund R. Overby
November 1959

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The house is noteworthy for its columned portico. The redesigned interior displays high standards of design and craftsmanship in the details and cabinet work. Only the very unusual portico reflects the original house.
2. Condition of fabric: Excellent.

B. Technical Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: Two stories, plus cellar. Portico approximately 26' long across entire front of house and approximately 8' deep.
2. Foundations: Random stone foundations. Columns stand on large cut stone pedestals.
3. Wall construction: Brick masonry center block (brick walls laid in common bond). Masonry ell to north side. Frame ell to rear. Portico entirely of wood.
4. Porches, stoops, bulkheads, etc.: Front porch, two stories high, tetrastyle, unfluted Roman Doric order columns are very slender, unornamented entablature, pediment with simple boxed, moulded horizontal and raking cornices. Shuttered, triangular vent in pediment. The columns are solid, turned from large trunks of Canadian White Pine, brought in specially for the portico.
5. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Eight-paneled front door with side and transom lights not centered but in right bay of three bay, tetrastyle portico.

- b. Windows and shutters: Six light over six light over six light triple hung windows with shutters on first floor - one in each of the other two bays. Three six light over six light double hung windows on second floor with shutters contained within the porch.

6. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: Gabled, shingled roof, gable end to the street, gable end forming portico pediment.
- b. Cornice, eaves: Simple boxed eaves, moulded trim.

C. Technical Description of Interiors: Interior dates from 1950.

- 1. Floor plan: Completely altered.
- 2. Stairways: Original single, spiral stairway survives in the front entrance hall.
- 3. Flooring: Modern hardwood.
- 4. Wall and ceiling finish: Various modern finishes.
- 5. Doorways and doors: A few original panel doors survive, mostly modern custom-made paneled doors designed to serve special functions.
- 6. Lighting: Electric.
- 7. Heating: Central plus fireplaces.

D. Site:

- 1. General setting and orientation: House faces east on a large lot with recently acquired space on either side, which the owner intends to develop into a garden.
- 2. Enclosures: None
- 3. Outbuildings: None
- 4. Landscaping, gardens, etc.: Informal - lawn, trees, shrubs, flowers.